STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
State: FLORIDA

ELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 1931 OF THE ACT

The State covers low income families and children under section 1931 of the Act.

The following groups were included in the AFDC State plan effective July 16, 1996:

_____ Pregnant women with no other eligible children.

_____ AFDC children age 18 who are full-time students in a secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training.

_____ In determining eligibility for Medicaid, the agency uses the AFDC standards and methodologies in effect as of July 16, 1996 without modification.

__X__ In determining eligibility for Medicaid, the agency uses the AFDC standards and methodologies in effect as of July 16, 1996 with the following modifications.

_____ The agency applies the lower income standards which are no lower than the AFDC standards in effect on May 1, 1988, as follows:

_____ The agency applies higher income standards than those in effect as of July 16, 1996, increased by no more than the percentage increases in the CPI-U since July 16, 1996, as follows:

_____ The agency applies higher resource standards than those in effect as of July 16, 1996, increased by no more than the percentage increases in the CPI-U since July 16, 1996, as follows:

__X__ The agency uses less restrictive income and/or resource methodologies than those in effect as of July 16, 1996, as follows:

More Liberal Income Methodologies Allowed Under Welfare Reform for Low Income Families

Effective January 1, 1997, applicants and recipients of Medicaid under the low income families coverage group who have earned income and meet other eligibility requirements will be eligible for an earned income disregard of the first $200 plus one-half of the remainder of earned income applied when determining eligibility for benefits.

Applicants for and recipients of Medicaid are eligible for the $200 and one-half earned income disregard if they meet one of the following criteria:

1) have been eligible for and received benefits under Sec. 1931 in one of the past four months; or

2) have gross income, less the $90 standard earned income disregard, which is less than or equal to the applicable need standard, the $30 plus 1/3 disregards are replaced by a disregard of $200 plus 1/2 of the remainder without a time limit.

For applicants who fail to meet the above standard, the AFDC standard in effect on July 16, 1996 will apply.

More Liberal Resource Methodologies Allowed Under Welfare Reform for Low Income Families

1) Effective January 1, 1997, low income families are eligible for an additional $1000 resource disregard over the AFDC standard in effect on July 16, 1996.

2) In determining the resources of a family, the following shall be excluded:

a) One licensed vehicle valued at no more than $8,500 and/or, if vehicles are needed for training, employment, or education, one vehicle per employable adult in the unit, the combined value which does not exceed $8,500.

b) Funds paid to a homeless shelter which are being held for the family to enable the family to pay deposits or other costs associated with moving to a new shelter arrangement.

_____ The income and/or resource methodologies that the less restrictive methodologies replace are as follows:

_____ The agency terminates medical assistance (except for certain pregnant women and children) for individuals who fail to meet TANF work requirements.

_____ The agency continues to apply the following waivers of provisions of Part A of Title IV in effect as of July 16, 1996, or submitted prior to August 22, 1996 and approved by the Secretary on or before July 1, 1997.

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Receipt of Lump Sum Payment

The following policy applies to all Medicaid eligible individuals, whether eligible through temporary cash assistance or Medicaid only.

A lump sum is considered an asset in the month of receipt and is excluded as income.

Lump sum payments are defined as unearned money received in the form of non-recurring lump sum payments including, but not limited to: income tax returns, rebates or credits, retroactive lump-sum Social Security, SSI, public assistance, railroad retirement benefits, or other payments; lump sum insurance settlements; or refunds of security deposits on rental property or utilities.

If the lump sum is earned income, such as a bonus or commission, it must be counted as earned income in the month of receipt. Any earned income left over after the month of receipt will be considered an asset.